

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 03012 231734Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05  
SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 /062 W  
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R 231727Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3463  
SECDEF WASHDC  
INFO USMISSION USNATO  
USCINCEUR  
CINCUSAFE  
HQ 3AF RAF MILDENHALL  
USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS LONDON 03012

SECDEF FOR OASD/ISA, OASD/PA AND CSAF/01

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MILI, UK, NATO  
SUBJECT: RAF GREENHAM COMMON

1. IN FORMAL QUESTION PERIOD IN HOUSE OF COMMONS  
FEBRUARY 21, MP MCNAIR-WILSON (NEWBURY) ASKED WHAT  
REQUESTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM USG FOR "BRINGING INTO  
FULL OPERATION USE OF RAF BASES CURRENTLY ON A STANDBY  
BASIS." WELLBELOVED (UNDERSECRETARY FOR RAF) CONFIRMED  
US REQUEST FOR USE OF GREENHAM COMMON AS A "PEACETIME  
BASE FOR UP TO 15 KC 135 TANKER AIRCRAFT". WELLBELOVED  
SAID REQUEST IS BEING CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BUT IN RE-  
SPONSE TO FOLLOW-UP QUESTION ADDED THAT HMG IS ALSO  
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF ALTERNATIVES TO  
GREENHAM COMMON.

2. TEXT OF MCNAIR'S SECOND QUESTION AND WELLBELOVED  
RESPONSE FOLLOWS:  
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BEGIN TEXT: MR. MCNAIR-WILSON - WERE THE BASES TO BE  
MADE OPERATIONAL, IT WOULD BRING INTOLERABLE NOISE TO  
THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE AND ANXIETY OVER AN AIR CRASH. OUGHT  
NOT THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES TO LOOK FOR ALTERNA-  
TIVES IN LESS POPULOUS AREAS?

MR. WELLBELOVED - NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE IN RESPECT

OF THE REACTIVATION OF GREENHAM COMMON. WE ARE CON-  
SIDERING THE WHOLE SUBJECT AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE  
POSSIBILITY OF AN ALTERNATIVE TO GREENHAM COMMON.

WE ARE ANXIOUS THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONTINUE  
WITH US TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FORCES FORWARD IN THE  
EUROPEAN AREA TO ACT AS A MEANINGFUL DETERRENT AGAINST  
AN AGGRESSOR. THAT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE WHO  
LIVE AROUND GREENHAM COMMON AS MUCH AS ANYTHING ELSE.

IF WE HAVE TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE NOISE THAT  
WILL BE GENERATED BY FRIENDLY AIRCRAFT AGAINST THE NOISE  
AND DISRUPTION THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY HOSTILE AIR-  
CRAFT, THE BALANCE OF JUDGMENT LIES IN PROVIDING PROPER  
FACILITIES IN DEFENCE OF FREEDOM. END OF TEXT

BREWSTER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY AIRCRAFT, MILITARY EXERCISES, MILITARY BASES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978LONDON03012  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
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**SAS ID:** 3507897  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RAF GREENHAM COMMON  
**TAGS:** MILI, UK, NATO  
**To:** STATE DOD  
**Type:** TE  
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